

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as indicated hereafter. It is believed that the following amendments and additions add no new matter to the present application.

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 8:

Colloidal silica is a suspension of very small, spherical particles of amorphous (not crystalline) silica suspended in water. The material is colloidal in that the silica particles do not settle out of the solution. The silica particles generally range in size from about 8 nanometers to a maximum size of about ~~300500~~ nanometers, or more, beyond which the silica ceases to be colloidal and begins to settle out of solution. Colloidal silica has been used for a variety of purposes, including precision casting, as a lining for molds, as a frictionizing (non-skid) agent, and in a variety of medical and pharmaceutical uses such as toothpaste, dental castings and drug delivery systems.